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General Assembly

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Seventy-third session
Third Committee

Organization of the work of the Third Committee

Note by the Secretariat

Allocation of items

1. The agenda items allocated by the General Assembly to the Third Committee will be issued in document A/C.3/73/1. Background information on those items may be found in the annotations to the agenda (see A/73/100).

Programme of work

2. The draft programme of work (see annex) has been prepared bearing in mind paragraph (b) of rule 99 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, Assembly decision 72/536 on the programme of work of the Third Committee for the seventy-third session, the agenda of the seventy-third session (A/73/150), the first report of the General Committee on the organization of the seventy-third regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items (A/73/250), relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the Assembly on the rationalization of its work and that of the Third Committee, as well as past experience in the utilization of conference services.

Question time and interactive dialogues

3. In accordance with the established practice of the Committee and pursuant to paragraphs 3 (c) and (d) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 58/316 on further measures for the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, immediately following the introduction of reports, interactive dialogues and a "question time" will be held with heads of departments and offices, representatives of the Secretary-General, special rapporteurs and other special mechanisms as part of the formal proceedings of the Committee. Delegations are invited to participate actively in these dialogues with questions and unscripted comments. The general discussion of each agenda item or cluster of agenda items is to follow the question time.

List of speakers

4. The list of speakers for the general discussion on agenda items allocated to the Committee will be opened on Monday, 17 September 2018.

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5. Requests for inscription from permanent missions to the United Nations and observer States for the general discussion on agenda items allocated to the Committee should be sent electronically through the eSpeakers platform. An automated email acknowledgement will be sent within one hour of receipt of the request. Requests for inscription from intergovernmental organizations, entities that have observer status with the General Assembly and entities of the United Nations system that do not have access to the eSpeakers platform should be sent by email to the Secretariat.

Statements

6. Statements made during the general discussion under each agenda item or cluster of agenda items will be limited to 5 minutes for individual delegations and to 12 minutes for statements made on behalf of a group of delegations. Microphones will be switched off automatically after the allotted time. Delegations are invited to dispense of salutary and congratulatory formulas and start their statements with their salient parts. All statements are to be delivered at a normal speaking pace to ensure their accurate interpretation in official languages of the United Nations.

7. Under item 74 of the agenda, "Promotion and protection of human rights", delegations may make one statement under each sub-item, which are to be discussed jointly. In the interest of time, however, delegations are encouraged to make only one statement under sub-items (a) and (d), and one statement under sub-items (b) and (c), or any other combination within the established time limit. Delegations wishing to deliver two or more statements are requested to specify the corresponding sub-item or sub-items for each statement and inscribe on the list of speakers accordingly, and to note that time allotments cannot be aggregated.

8. Under item 72, "Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance", and item 73, "Right of peoples to self-determination", which are to be discussed jointly, delegations may also make two separate statements. In the interest of time, delegations are again encouraged to make only one statement within the established time limit.

9. Similarly, under item 110, "Crime prevention and criminal justice", and item 111, "International drug control", which are to be discussed jointly, delegations may also make two separate statements. In the interest of time, delegations are encouraged to make only one statement within the established time limit.

10. In accordance with previous decisions of the General Assembly, delegations should exercise their right of reply at the end of the day whenever two meetings have been scheduled for the consideration of the relevant agenda item on that day, or at the conclusion of the consideration of the item, if that is sooner. The first statement should be limited to five minutes and the second, if any, to three minutes.

List of documents

11. Attention is drawn to the addendum to the present note (to be issued as A/C.3/73/L.1/Add.1), which will list the documentation submitted under each agenda item expected to be allocated to the Committee.

Conference facilities and meeting arrangements

12. Unless otherwise specified, official meetings of the Committee will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m. in Conference Room 1 (Conference Building). The General Assembly has stressed that a punctual start of meetings is critical to the efficient utilization of services allocated to the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations. In accordance with past practice, it is proposed that rule 108 of the rules of

procedure of the General Assembly be waived with respect to the quorum needed to declare a meeting open.

Co-sponsorship of draft resolutions and proposals

13. The initiation and co-sponsorship of draft resolutions and other proposals will be undertaken electronically through the eSponsorship application without prejudice to the possibility offered to delegations of co-sponsoring a proposal at the time of the Committee's action on the latter. To maximize the efficiency of the Committee, however, all delegations wishing to co-sponsor a proposal are encouraged to do so electronically through the eSponsorship application rather than during the formal proceedings of the Committee.

Introduction of draft resolutions

14. In line with efforts to further enhance the efficiency of the Committee, main sponsors of proposals are urged to limit the introduction of their proposals, solely at the time of their consideration by the Committee, to statements not exceeding three minutes. Main sponsors are thus requested not to make a formal introductory statement on a draft resolution upon its issuance as an "L" document, with the possible exception of introductory statements in relation to a new, non-recurrent draft resolution.

Report of the Economic and Social Council

15. In paragraph 4 (c) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 58/316, the Assembly decided that the item entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council" should be considered in its entirety in plenary meeting. Subsequently, it was clarified that, in implementing that decision, the relevant parts of chapter I of the report of the Council that related to agenda items allocated to the Main Committees would be considered by the Committee concerned, for final action by the Assembly (see A/59/250/Add.1, para. 4).

Report of the Human Rights Council

16. In its resolution 65/281, entitled "Review of the Human Rights Council", the General Assembly decided to continue its practice of allocating the item entitled "Report of the Human Rights Council" to the plenary of the Assembly and to the Third Committee, in accordance with its decision 65/503 A, with the understanding that the President of the Council will present the report in her or his capacity as President to the plenary of the Assembly and to the Committee and that the Committee will hold an interactive dialogue with the President of the Council following the presentation of the report of the Council to the Committee.

Conclusion of the work of the Committee

17. Bearing in mind the number of meetings allocated to the Committee, a target date of 21 November 2018 has been set for the conclusion of its work. The Committee will, however, endeavour to conclude its work earlier, if possible.

Annex

Draft programme of work of the Third Committee

Date/time	*Item/programme*[a]	
Week of 1–5 October		
Tuesday, 2 October		
10 a.m.		Election of officers
		Organizational matters
	Item 138	**Programme planning**[b]
		Introductory statements, interactive dialogue and general discussion of:
	Item 28	**Social development**
		(a) Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
		(b) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family
		(c) Literacy for life: shaping future agendas
1 p.m.		Closure of the list of speakers on item 28
3 p.m.	**Item 28**	General discussion (*continued*)
Wednesday, 3 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	**Item 28**	General discussion (*continued and concluded*)
Thursday, 4 October		
10 a.m.		Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:
	Item 110	**Crime prevention and criminal justice**
	Item 111	**International drug control**
1 p.m.		Closure of the list of speakers on items 110 and 111
3 p.m.	**Items 110 and 111**	General discussion (*concluded*)
Friday, 5 October		
		Introductory statements, interactive dialogue and general discussion of:
10 a.m.	**Item 29**	**Advancement of women**
1 p.m.		Closure of the list of speakers on item 29

Date/time	*Item/programme*	
3 p.m.	**Item 29**	General discussion (*continued*)
Week of 8–12 October		
Monday, 8 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	**Item 29**	General discussion (*continued and concluded*)
Tuesday, 9 October		
10 a.m.		Introductory statements, interactive dialogue and general discussion of:
	Item 70	**Promotion and protection of the rights of children**
		(a) Promotion and protection of the rights of children
		(b) Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children
3 p.m.	**Item 70**	Introductory statements, interactive dialogue and general discussion (*continued*)
6 p.m.		Closure of the list of speakers on item 70
Wednesday, 10 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	**Item 70**	General discussion (*continued*)
Thursday, 11 October		
10 a.m.	**Item 70**	General discussion (*concluded*)
Friday, 12 October		
10 a.m.		Introductory statements, interactive dialogue and general discussion of:
	Item 71	**Rights of indigenous peoples**
		(a) Rights of indigenous peoples
		(b) Follow-up to the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples
1 p.m.		Closure of the list of speakers on item 71
		Deadline for submission of proposals under items 28, 110 and 111
3 p.m.	**Item 71**	General discussion (*concluded*)
Week of 15–19 October		
Monday, 15 October		
10 a.m.		Introductory statements and interactive dialogue with senior Secretariat officials on:
	Item 74	**Promotion and protection of human rights**
		(a) Implementation of human rights instruments

Date/time	*Item/programme*	
		(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms
		(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives
		(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action
3 p.m.	**Item 74**	Introductory statements, interactive dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion
6 p.m.		Closure of the list of speakers on items 74 (a), (b), (c) and (d)
Tuesday, 16 October		
10 a.m.	**Item 74**	Dialogue with special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts and general discussion
3 p.m.	**Item 74**	Dialogue with special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts (*continued*)
Wednesday, 17 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	**Item 74**	Dialogue with special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts (*continued*)
Thursday, 18 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	**Item 74**	Dialogue with special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts (*continued*)
Friday, 19 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	**Item 74**	Dialogue with special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts (*continued*)
1 p.m.		Deadline for submission of proposals under items 29, 70 and 71
Week of 22–26 October		
Monday, 22 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	**Item 74**	Dialogue with special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts (*continued*)
Tuesday, 23 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	**Item 74**	Dialogue with special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts (*continued*)
Wednesday, 24 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	**Item 74**	Dialogue with special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts (*continued*)

Date/time	*Item/programme*[a]	
Thursday, 25 October		
10 a.m.	**Item 74**	Dialogue with special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts (*continued*)
3 p.m.		Dialogue with special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts (*continued*)
Friday, 26 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	**Item 74**	Dialogue with special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts (*concluded*)
		General discussion (*continued*)
Week of 29 October to 2 November		
Monday, 29 October		
10 a.m.	**Item 74**	General discussion (*continued*)
3 p.m.		Introductory statements, interactive dialogue and general discussion of:
	Item 72	**Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance**
		(a) Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance
		(b) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action
	Item 73	**Right of peoples to self-determination**
6 p.m.		Closure of the list of speakers on items 72 and 73
Tuesday, 30 October		
10 a.m.	**Items 72 and 73**	General discussion (*continued*)
3 p.m.	**Items 72 and 73**	General discussion (*concluded*)
Wednesday, 31 October		
10 a.m.	**Item 74**	General discussion (*concluded*)
1 p.m.		Deadline for submission of proposals under items 74 (a), (b), (c) and (d)
3 p.m.		Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:

Date/time	*Item/programme*[a]	
	Item 66	**Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions**
6 p.m.		Closure of the list of speakers on item 66
Thursday, 1 November		
10 a.m.	**Item 66**	General discussion (*concluded*)
Friday, 2 November		
1 p.m.		Deadline for submission of proposals under items 66, 72 and 73
3 p.m.		Introductory statement by the President of the Human Rights Council, followed by an interactive dialogue and general discussion of:
	Item 69	**Report of the Human Rights Council**
6 p.m.		Closure of the list of speakers and deadline for submission of proposals under item 69
Week of 5–9 November		
Tuesday, 6 November		
3 p.m.		Action on proposals
Thursday, 8 November		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.		Action on proposals
Week of 12–16 November		
Tuesday, 13 November		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.		Action on proposals
1 p.m.		Deadline for submission of revised proposals and draft amendments
Thursday, 15 November		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.		Action on proposals
Friday, 16 November		
10 a.m.		Action on proposals
Week of 19–23 November		
Monday, 19 November		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.		Action on proposals
Tuesday, 20 November		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.		Action on proposals

Date/time	*Item/programme*[a]
Wednesday, 21 November	
10 a.m.	
	Item 124 **Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly**[c]
	Action on outstanding proposals
	Conclusion of the work of the Third Committee

[a] Item of the provisional agenda (A/73/150).

[b] This item is to be allocated to all the Main Committees to enhance discussion of evaluation, planning, budgeting and monitoring reports.

[c] This item is to be allocated to the Third Committee for the sole purpose of considering and taking action on the tentative programme of work of the Committee for the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly.